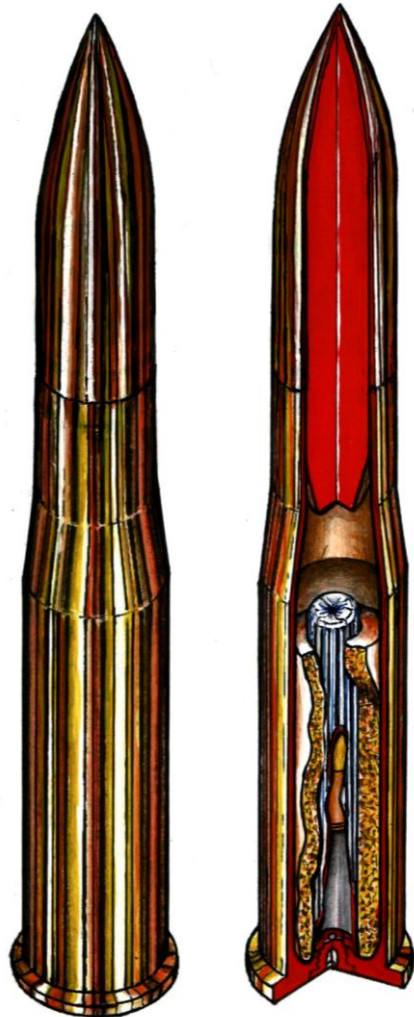


HIGH EXPLOSIVE BOOBY-TRAP BULLETS

Introduction

Booby-Trapped or sabotaged ammunition has been found on the battlefields of most large conflicts throughout history and the laying of sabotaged ammunition is still practiced today, especially in "Low Intensity Conflicts". The doctored ammunition is seeded or salted into the conflict zone to create an atmosphere of insecurity, to destroy individual weapons and to maim or kill individual soldiers.

In Malaya (1948-1960) there is evidence that this practice was actively pursued. In Operation Purvey, some 10,000 rounds of .303 were doctored with high explosive. On firing, either from a rifle or a Bren gun, such a doctored cartridge would detonate, burst the barrel, and kill or severely injure the firer. There was some concern about the legality of such actions, but General Templer, the GOC at the time, dismissed these concerns. The SAS also doctored weapons such as the Lee Enfield rifles, which were left for the communist terrorists to find. It wasn't only the SAS that were involved in such activities. Roy Follows joined the Malaya Police and spent much time fighting the Communist Terrorists. In one incident he recorded that he was summoned to the Officer Commanding Special Branch and given a bandolier of .303 ammunition. He looked at it and on asking what it was, was told that it was the normal ball ammunition. He was later told that in fact the rounds had been doctored and the propellant, a low explosive, had been replaced with high explosive. Follows was then told to leave this ammunition where the Communist Terrorists were likely to find it. He later recorded that, several weeks after he had left the ammunition, there was an ambush by the terrorists in which it was reported that, as they opened fire, there were a number of breach explosions which resulted in the ambush being abandoned.



Improved Booby-Trapped Ammunition using a Flash Detonator with Plastic or Granular Explosives

In Vietnam under code names like "Italian Red" "Italian Green" "Bolo Beans" and others, sabotaged ammo started with pulling a few bullet heads of ammo and replacing the propellant powder with a primary high explosive. This was successful enough for the military to produce special ammo filled with high explosives, manufactured on Guam and Taiwan. The practice was for Special Forces, LRRP, SEAL and SOG units to "salt" ammo caches that were found, or to simply leave a few rounds near a trail where they'd be found by the enemy.

These programs were so successful; the military issued special orders to American troops NOT to use any enemy ammo or munitions.

Primary Explosives used to replace Propellant

Primary explosives are sensitive to Heat and shock and so detonate on the functioning of the bullet's percussion cap when the round is fired.

Explosives used: **Lead Azide, Lead Syphnate, and diazodinitrophenol (DDNP).**

In Vietnam the CIA and Green Berets began by booby-trapping the enemy's ammunition supplies, in an operation code-named "Project Eldest Son." The propellant in a rifle or machine-gun cartridge was replaced with high explosive. Upon being fired, the sabotaged round would destroy the gun and kill or injure the shooter. Mortar shells were similarly rigged to explode when dropped down the tube, instead of launching properly. This ammunition was then carefully re-packed to eliminate any evidence of tampering and was then planted in enemy munitions dumps by covert insertion teams. A sabotaged round might also be planted in a rifle magazine or machine-gun belt and left on the body of a dead NLF soldier, in anticipation that the deceased's ammo would be picked up and used by his comrades. No more than one sabotaged round would be planted in any single case, magazine, or belt of ammunition, to reduce the chances of the enemy finding it no matter how diligently they inspected their supplies.

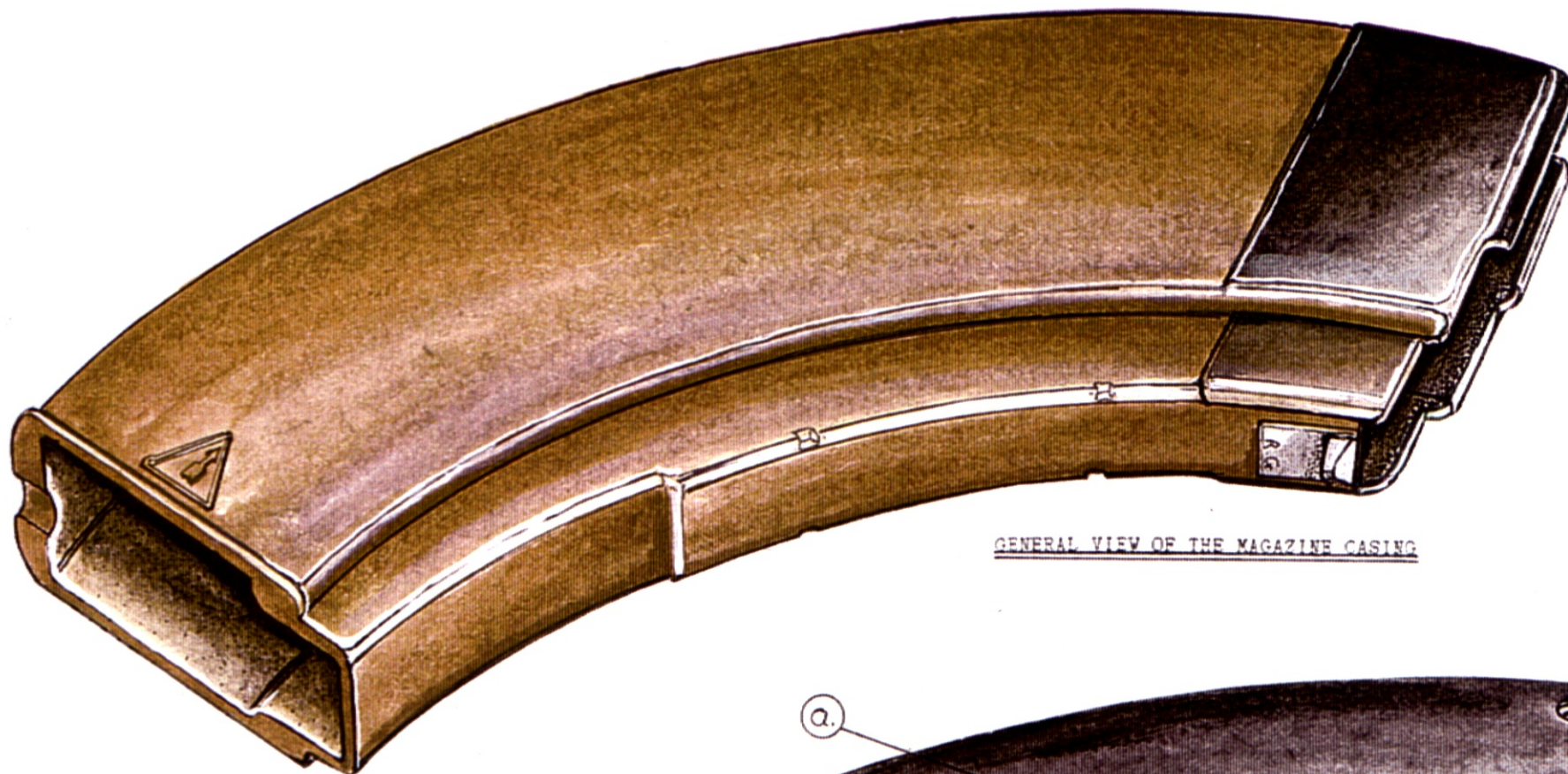


Soviet 7.62mm ammunition cross-sectioned and showing Nitrocellulose Propellant grains inside

When Arms industries and governments manufacture these rounds of doctored ammunition, there is very little chance of any detection. When this doctoring of ammunition is improvised, there will always be signs of pliers/tool marks and notches on the bullet head. Normal ammunition can be shaken and the grains of Nitrocellulose propellant can be heard inside. Primary explosive filled ammo is packed tightly to prevent any movement or friction due to its sensitivity.

BOOBYTRAPPED AK-47 MAGAZINE - YUGO

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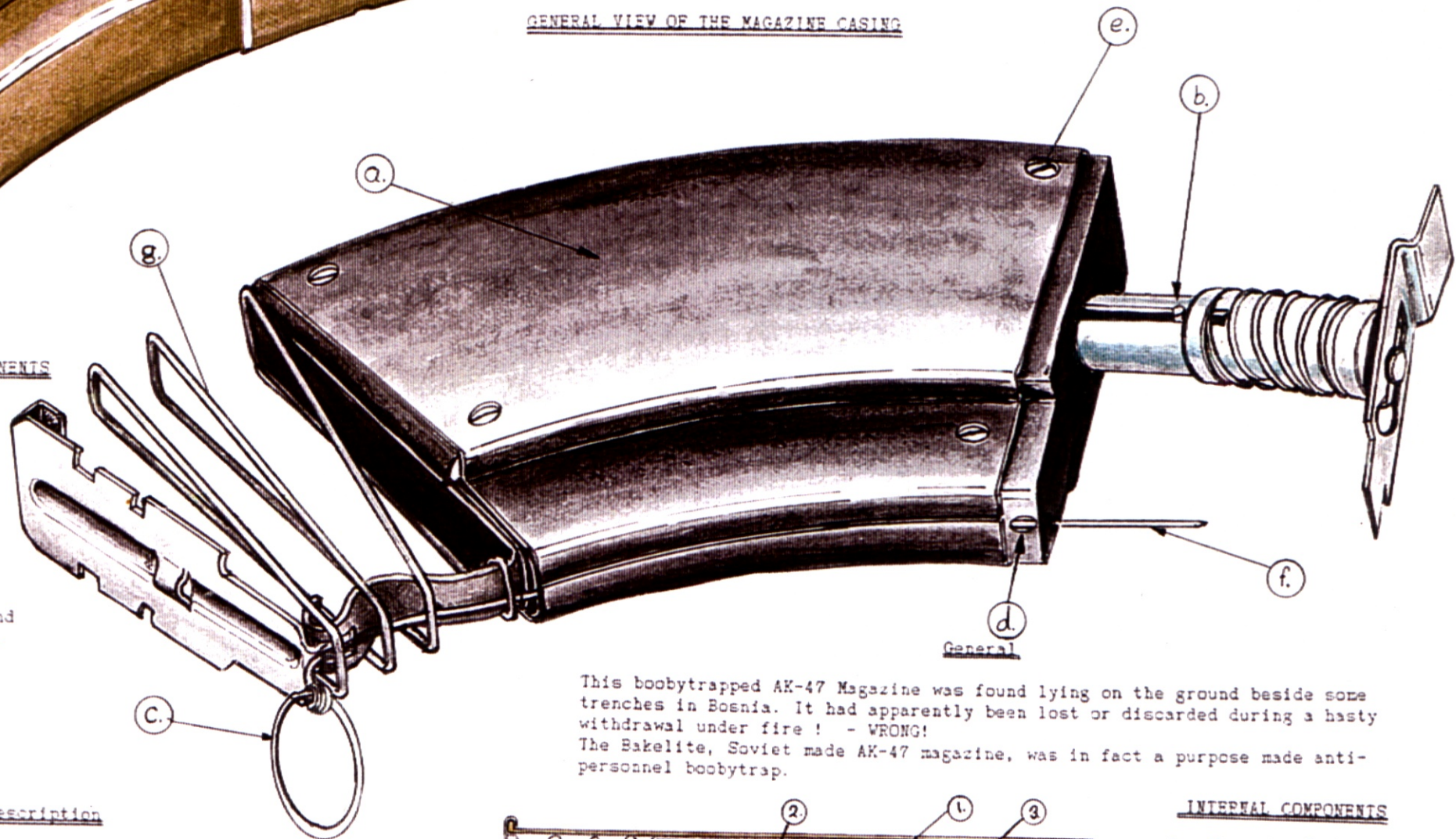


GENERAL VIEW OF THE MAGAZINE CASING

GENERAL VIEW OF THE INTERNAL COMPONENTS

- a.- Steel Case (35gms TNT).
- b.- Pressure Release Switch.
- c.- Safety Pin.
- d.- Locking Detent.
- e.- Screws to place charge.
- f.- Arming/Safety Pin.
- g.- Modified Magazine Spring.

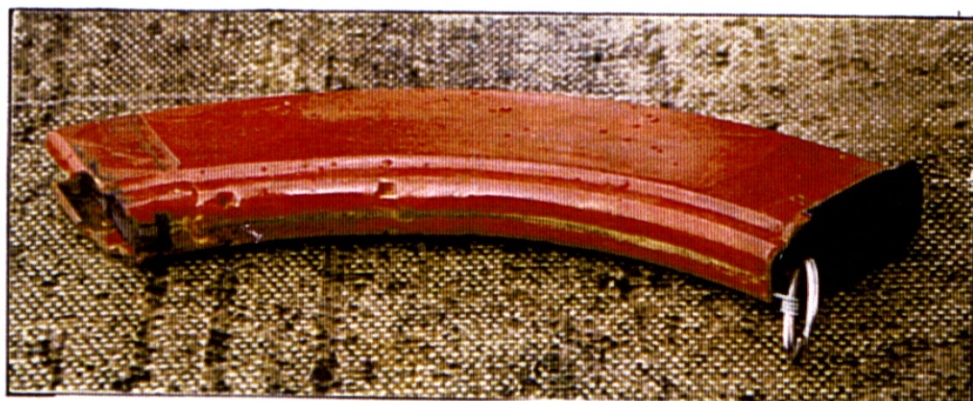
NB The magazine 'Base plate' and 'Round slider' are not shown.



General

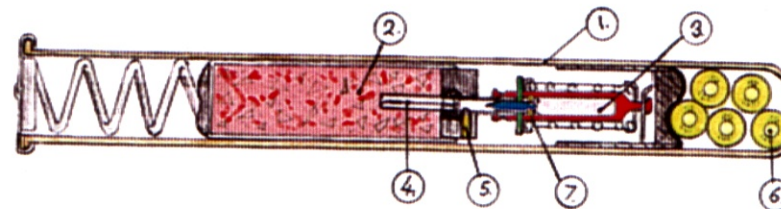
Description

The magazine was a standard Soviet issue mag with all the usual external parts and markings. Inside was a completely modified arrangement, built around the internal workings of the magazine. A steel casing, containing 35gms of TNT now occupied the majority of the space. This was connected to a 'Spring Operated, Ball Control' Pressure release operated, Mechanical Switch. The pressure to compress the switch was supplied by a cut down and modified Magazine spring.



PHOTOGRAPH OF DEVICE WITH SAFETY PIN IN PLACE

This boobytrapped AK-47 Magazine was found lying on the ground beside some trenches in Bosnia. It had apparently been lost or discarded during a hasty withdrawal under fire! - WRONG!
The Bakelite, Soviet made AK-47 magazine, was in fact a purpose made anti-personnel boobytrap.



INTERNAL COMPONENTS

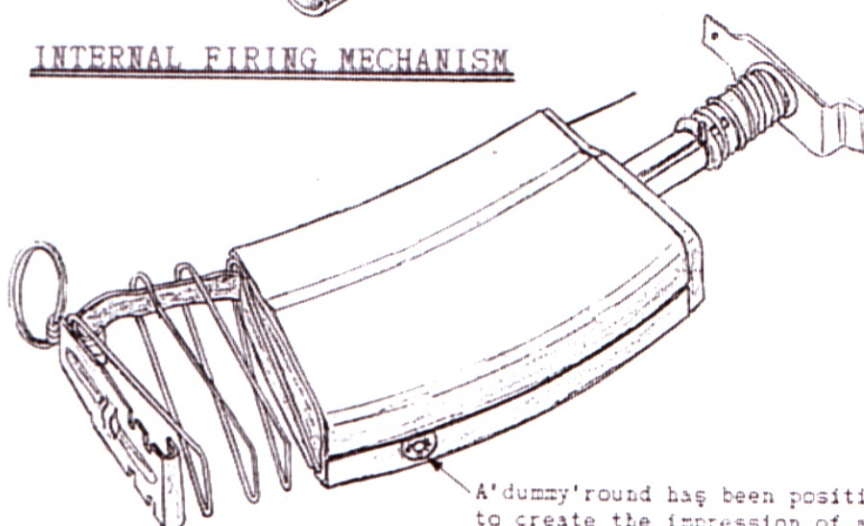
- 1.- Magazine Body.
- 2.- Explosive Charge.
- 3.- Pressure Release Switch.
- 4.- Percussion Detonator.
- 5.- Arming Detent.
- 6.- Five 7.62mm Rounds.
- 7.- Ball Bearings.

Booby-Trapped Magazine*Sequence of Events

- 1- As a round is removed, the outer sleeve moves rearward.
- 2- Another round is removed, the sleeve moves to the rear.
- 3- More rearward movement, the spring is pushing on the bar that passes through the striker.
- 4- One more round and the outer sleeve will release the ball bearings. This will free the striker.
- 5- The last round is removed, the outer sleeve clears the ball bearings. The ball bearings release the striker. The spring opens up rapidly and drives the striker into the detonator.

The safety pin releases the detent that allows the switch to open into the 'armed' position. Once 'armed' the switch cannot be disarmed. As rounds are fired or removed, the switch opens up until the ball bearings are released. The removal of the ball bearings releases the striker. The striker functions the det and initiates the main charge.

INTERNAL FIRING MECHANISM



A 'dummy' round has been positioned to create the impression of a 'Full' magazine when seen through the viewing hole on the back of the AK-47 Bakelite magazine.

REAR VIEW SHOWING DUMMY ROUND

NB: An X-Ray would easily show this to be a booby trap. Most of us don't have the luxury of an X-Ray in the field, therefore remote RSP's are essential. A dip stick to slide in between the rounds would give a valid indication of a booby-trap. This one was found with its Safety Pin in - fortunately

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